AN EPISTLE GENERAL

CONTAINING

(35)

Wholsome *Exhortations* and *Good Counsel* from the *Spirit of Truth*, unto all *such* as are or may be under the *Judgment* or *Sentence*

OF

BANISHMENT,

FOR THE

Testimony of *Jesus Christ* (which is *held* in a *Tender Conscience*) throughout the Nation of *England*.

As also,

Unto all them that are yet at *Liberty* (to be *faithful* to the Lord, and meet *often* together in the fear of his *Name*, and not to *fear Man*, that shall be made as *Grass*) and to all in *Bonds*, *Prisons*, and *Holes* every-where throughout the *World*, who are bearing (and suffering for) the same *Testimony* of *Truth* and *Righteousness*, which the Lord hath *decreed* shall *prosper* and *spread* over all the *World*, till the *Kingdoms* thereof are become his *Kingdoms*, and he shall *Reign* for ever and ever. *Amen*.

With a few *Words* of *Advice*, to all who have or may have any *Message* or *Business* upon the account of *Truth* to such as are in *Authority* in the *Nations*.

By a Servant of the Churches of Christ Jesus. *W. B.* [illegible]

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EPISTLE GENERAL,

Containing

Wholſome *Exhortations* and *Good Counſel*, from the *Spirit of Truth*, unto all ſuch as are, or may be, under the *Judgement* or *Sentence* of *BANISHMENT*, for the *Teſtimony* of *Jeſus Chriſt*, &c.

MY dear Friends and Brethren, who for your teſtimony of truth (and obedience to the God of *Abraham*) are or may be cauſed to wander (as ſome of our Fathers have done) from your Native Countries, and to be expoſed to the want of a certain dwelling place in the Earth, and to forſake All for the Name of Chriſt, that is neer and dear in the World, and be liable to great Jeopardies and Perils by Sea and Land, among Strangers, and in ſtrange Countries; why, take ye no thought for your Life, what ye ſhall eat, or what ye ſhall drink, or wherewith ye ſhall be clothed, or, for your Relations and Families, what they ſhall do in your Abſence, for the Lord (for whoſe ſake ye ſuffer) will provide both for you and them, as ye faithful to him abide, whoſe tender bowells of compaſſions are open toward them that fear him, and pittieth them, even as a Father pittieth his Children. But conſider how great and weighty a Work and Service the Lord at this time hath called you unto, and how greatly the Honour and Glory of his holy Name is concerned therein; the Lord my God give you a clear underſtanding thereof, and direct you in his Counſel in all ye take in hand, that in it ye may ſtand faithful, and be preſerved in his pure Fear, in meekneſs and wiſdom, to his praiſe; for it is the faithfulneſs of his People, in their patient ſufferings, and circumſpect, humble, ſober, juſt, wiſe, upright, harmleſs converſation, that will anſwer the Principle of God in all Nations, and preach his Kingdom come nigh unto People, among whom-ſoever

they may come, or be ſcattered for his Name-ſake; and by this Goſpel (which is everlaſting) ſhall thouſands be converted unto God, and multitudes be gathered into his Name, and many through his knowledge ſhall be juſtified, which muſt cover the Earth as the Waters cover the Sea, as was propheſied in dayes paſt.

Therefore my dear Friends, be ye not at all diſcouraged in your ſufferings; but look at the End for which the Lord hath called you thereun o, which is the exaltation of his Name, and the gathering of his pretious Seed out of Captivity, where they have been ſcattered in all quarters, in the cloudy and dark day, that they might come to inherit reſt in their own Land, and partake of the glory which was before the world was; and *conſult not* with fleſh and blood in any thing, for ye have need of *great watchfulneſs* this day, that no reaſoner may enter you, to the betraying the *Innocent* into the Sinners hands, ſo that Spirit will ſell the Lord that bought them, to ſave ſelf and the things of this Life: But fleſh and blood muſt not inherit the Kingdom of God, for 'tis prepared for that bleſſed innocent Seed only, which hath no Kingdom in this World, but is a ſtranger in the Earth. So let your pure breathings be manifeſt unto the Lord, that ye may receive power from him, to be preſerved in his truth, out of all the ſparks of this World, and commit your cauſe and all ye have, freely and wholly unto him, and be purely reſigned and ſubject to his heavenly Will (eying his Glory) in all things, at all times, and in all places; for the Work is his, and the Cauſe ye are engaged in is the Lords, and not your own; ye are but as Servants or Inſtruments in this great Work, which the Lord hath begun, and is cauſing to ſpread and proſper throughout the Earth, that he may get himſelf a *great*, and *glorious*, and *dreadful Name*, to the ends of the *World*, who ſhall be made to bow down and worſhip at his foot-ſtool, and confeſs that we are his People, and that the Everlaſting God is with us, is on our ſide, and fights for us, who cannot ſtrive, nor fight for our ſelves, nor avenge our own cauſe, but leave it to him who judgeth righteouſly; and this ſhall be an evident token that our Kingdom is not of this World unto all people.

Therefore my dear Friends and Brethren, faint not in your minds, neither be ye diſcouraged as concerning the greatneſs of the Trials ye have to undergo, but caſt your burthen (in this matter) upon the Lord, for the weight of your ſufferings herein he hath pondred, and it's come near unto him, and to the hearts of his dear Children, whoſe ſecret Cries and tender Breathings are unceſſantly poured forth into his boſome, in your behalf, in the tender yearning bowels of his everlaſting com-

compassions; that ye may stand *faithful* in his counsel, and so walk, that his glorious *Name* may be *exalted*, and his *Truth glorified in you*, and *by you*, and by *all* that make mention thereof; else to what end is all our sufferings and profession of his Name in the World? *Surely, surely* the Lord is chusing a *Remnant* to himself (to walk with him in faithfulness) that shall greatly honour him, and magnifie, and reverence his *Holy Name*, and bring praise unto him in this his day, and such only will the Lord my God honour with everlasting dominion, and beautifie with his Eternal Salvation and Peace. Oh happy is the man, and happy will be that soul, whose lot falls in this ground; and verily its but a little while, and he will wipe away the reproach of this his chosen Remnant, and plead their cause with all their Oppressors, when the measures of the iniquities of his Adversaries are filled up, and our Faith and Patience sufficiently tried, and proved, and made manifest to the World; for of this great controverse (now in hand) the tender Seed of God is very sensible through Nations, which gives many People to see and discern, an absolute difference of Spirit, and a great gulf fixed between us and our adversaries; and this shall arise and break the hearts of thousands who are yet afar off, when they shall hear of your patient innocent sufferings, only for your tender Conscience and the Worship of your God, to whose Name and Power many shall confess (as the King in *Daniels* day) that he is the *Living God, and stedfast for ever, and his Kingdom that which shall never be destroyed, and his Dominion shall be even to the end; he delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in Heaven and in Earth.* And thus is our God (who is the same) doing at this very day (though the ungodly see it not) as shall hereafter be confessed and published, as this was after the beloved *Daniel* was *tried* and *proved*, and not before, *mark that*; and then woe will be to your Persecutors (as it was to his) when the Seed shall arise in the Nations and witness for you, and against them, who shall curse the hour in which they were born, and the moment in which they breathed in the World, and the womb that bare them, that ever they should be so blind to bring swift destruction upon their own heads, for the lucre of a moment of pleasures.

Therefore my dear Friends, let your minds be stayed, and your hearts fixed on the Lord, that ye may be alwayes kept and preserved in the pure sence of the weight and ponderousness of this his great and honourable Work, which he hath called you into, that so ye may be patterns, and pure examples, of righteousness, gravity, truth and holiness to the Nations, even as Lights in a dark place, and as a City set on

on the Everlasting Hill of God, above all the fury and rage of your enemies, or their most subtillest Temptations or provocations, which ye may meet withall in your Travails and dayly exercises: From which my God deliver you, and keep you stedfast in watchfulness, wisdome, and fear to the end; that ye may be preserved out of all the snares of the Enemy, to the honour of his great Name, and the comfort and peace of your own souls; for its the endurer to the end, that shall be saved.

And dear Friends, Take heed and beware of letting in the spirit of this world into your hearts, which naturally draws from God, into its own Center, to look after the riches, ease, and glory thereof; for it was not in vaine, that the same Spirit that now dwels in his Children, exhorted his Disciples (in Ages past) to take heed and beware of Covetousness, for a mans life consisteth not in the abundance of the things of this world which he may possess; For whosoever shall let forth his mind after these things, and imbrace and entertain those subtill Contrivances which may arise in the mind as Temptations, and shall follow the whisperings thereof, and so let that be his Guide which leads to seek self, *his own honour, riches* and *glory*, and not the things of Jesus Christ, the Truth and its *glory only*, *such a one will be destroyed*, and not preserved. And this I have received from my God, to warne you of it, in tender love to your souls, and to the honour of his everlasting Name, which must and will be exalted over all the Earth: And though a Thousand should fall on the right hand, and ten Thousands on the left hand, yet the Lord shall be glorified, and all people be left without just excuse.

So the Lord God of Heaven direct you, and preserve you chast and single unto himself, for his Name sake, and for his tender Seeds sake, which is very dear and precious to him in every Nation. And this is the breathings of my heart and soul for you all, in the true and living sense of the marvellous work and wonderfull things he is bringing to passe in these latter dayes; for its the Life must confound *Babel*, (as in the dayes of old) and build up *Zion*, whose walls is salvation and gates praises for evermore. Therefore in the retired watchfull, pure, light and life of God it self, all dwell, alwayes eying his eternal power, and presence to go before you (this was *Moses's* mind, *Carry us not hence except thy presence go with us*) for that is it by which the Lord wrought wonderfull things, and preserved his people in all ages, who were obedient thereunto; and this hath preserved us, who hath been led and guided thereby to this day, and will preserve us to the end, as we are faith-

faithfull to obey its requirings, and so the Prayes can only be preserved, or saved out of Temptations, and from the wrath to come. And this I do *affirme* from *certain experience*; For Transgression against Gods requirings, was, and is, the Ground and cause of the separation and alienation from him, and from his Covenant of promise, and is the breach of the peace and unity between God and man; So that there is no peace to the wicked, neither can there, so long as the whoredomes and witchcrafts of *Jezabel* remains, and disobedience is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornesse is Iniquity and Idolatry; so that none can enjoy perfect peace with the holy God, but them whose feet are guided by his light and *holy Spirit*, in the *way* of *peace*, which all the world that lye in wickednesse (in Transgression) are ignorant of, the way of peace they know not; But the Children of the Lord shall be all *Taught* of him, and great shall be the peace of his Children.

So my dear Friends, mind the Light of the Lord, and let it be your Guide and Teacher, and your dwelling place; for them of the Nations that are saved, must walke in the Light; mark, though they are saved, yet they must still walke in the Light of the Holy City; and to it shall the gathering of the people be, who shall flock thereunto, as the doves to the windowes, as was prophesied and is now fulfilling in this our day, blessed for ever be the Name of the Lord. And take good heed to your Wayes, Words, and Carriages, amongst all people where-ever you come, as ye love the honour of God, and the peace of your own soules, in whose *Name*, in bowells of love, I lay it upon you all; for many will be the eyes, that will be sharply fixed upon you, both for good and for evil, even to mark all your steps in every path which you shall tread with your feet: Therefore keep your feet in the way of peace, and walk with God, as *Enoch*, that ye may be more and more translated, and taken upout of the sight of all that watch for your halting; so shall ye have the Witness in your selves, that your Wayes please the Lord, as he bid, and as many of his dear children have at this day, with whom ye will have precious Unity, as ye walk in the same steps, and mind the same things, that are eternal. And walk in lowlinesse, in the fear of God, and in love and tenderness one towards another, that men seeing your good Works, & blamelesse conversation, may glorifie the Name of our God (in whose sight, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is of great price) so shall your good and sweet savour of all vertues abound and spread through Nations, And by these things (as leaves and fruits of the Tree of life) must the Nations be healed and replanted. And this is Gods decree and determination, and the

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work he hath begun amongst us, and is about at this very day, even to make new Heavens, and a new Earth, wherein Righteousness shall dwell for ever; and the old shall pass and is passing away with this great noise; for the Lord is finishing transgression, and making an end of sin, and bringing in everlasting Righteousness. Blessed is the eye that seeth and the heart that believeth and understandeth, and waiteth patiently and faithfully for the accomplishment thereof, for such only shall be kept under the shadow of the Almighty, who abide in the secret of the Most High, where they enjoy the sure mercies of *David*, and the Kingdome and Dominion which never ends: into which the God of Life bring you by his Eternal Power, and keep and preserve you in his pure peaceable Wisdom, (at all times and in all places, where-ever you come, by Sea and Land. The Eternal God of my Life, of Heaven and Earth, be with you, and cause you to grow daily, as living plants to his renown and glory, and give you favour among all people, that generations to come, may call you the blessed of the Lord. And as in this ye walk and abide, your enemies shall be made to confesse, that you are his chosen people, and many shall take hold of your skirts, because of these ventures, of which your garments will send forth a sweet savour among them. But wo to that *man*, by whom the Lord shall be *dishonoured* among you, it had been good for him, that he had not been born.

So my dear friends and Brethren, dwell in your particular measures of the grace of God, the light and power of his eternall Spirit of Truth, for whose Name sake ye suffer, and resign up your own wills (in the Crosse daily) to his heavenly will and providence, and cast all your care upon him, for he careth for his Children; only let this be your care, that his Name and Truth be kept clear, and not be reproached or blasphemed, or suffer justly any way through any of you, for that would bring weakness, and even a Consumption upon you, Condemnation and Anguish upon every soul that doth evil. So the eternal God keep your minds and hearts, in the deep Consideration of the substance of these things: For truly Friends, great is the Lord, and greatly to be feared, and honoured, by all that make mention of his Name; the weight of which my soul doth daily ponder, and yet there remains a depth beyond what the mind of man can fathom. So unto the Lord and his faithfull Witness I leave you, being cleare of what lay on me to write unto you in this matter at present, yet my soul doth daily travaile, and breath to my God for you all; For the honour of his Name is setled in my heart, daily more and more, in the sence

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whereof I cannot forget his dear ſuffering people, who ſuffer ſo this Name-ſake. So the God of Heaven be with you, and his pure lively preſence fill your hearts with everlaſting joy and peace, and in this we ſhall daily meet together, and embrace each other, where nothing can ſeparate, as in it we faithfull abide, though we may be ſeparated as to the outward veſſells, through the wills of men, never to ſee each others faces more: the will of the Lord be done, ſaith my ſoul,

Who am your dear Brother in the bond of love and peace, which never changeth.

AND all friends every where, who are yet at liberty, keep your meetings together, in the Name and fear of the Lord, and be not daunted, or terrified, in any thing, as from your Adverſaries; for the Lord hath permitted or ſuffered them, in ſome meaſure, according to their hearts deſire, to try you, and to ſift and winnow you for a ſeaſon, and ye ſhall have Tribulation ten dayes; For the Devil (who hath already caſt many of you into priſons) hath deſired to winnow you as wheat, and not only ſo, but to deſtroy you utterly, root and branch from off the earth: But bleſſed be the Lord, who hath ſent down the Angel of his preſence, with the great Chain in his hand, and hath laid hold on the Dragon, ſo that he is limited (as in the dayes of *Job*) though he caſt out his floods of rage, and fury, againſt the man-child, perſecuting the Woman that brings him forth, and makes war with the remnant of her ſeed, which keep the Commandements, and hold faſt the Teſtimony of Jeſus. But his time is but ſhort, of which he is ſenſible, that his ruine and downfall approacheth, and dreadfulneſs hath taken hold of his heart, becauſe the two Witneſſes are riſen (which torments the Earth) the Spirit of life from God is entered into them, and they ſtand upon their feet, and great fear is fallen upon their enemies, and this is the ſmoak of their Torment, of the fire which is kindled in their bowells, which will never be quenched, till the ungodly are conſumed, whoſe ſwift deſtruction is haſtening upon them, and this way it cometh to paſſe, even by thoſe very actions and contrivances by which he thinks to ſtand and uphold his power and Kingdome, ſo blind is your Adverſary, and his followers; and when they ſhall cry peace and ſafety, then ſhall ſudden deſtruction come upon them, as pangs on a Woman in Travell, and they ſhall not eſcape.

Therefore my dear Friends, be of good courage, and ſtand valiant for the Truth upon Earth, and dwell in the will of God, and be faithful to him in whatſoever he makes manifeſt to you, that ye may witneſs perfect peace with him, in all ye do or ſuffer for his Name ſake. And fear not him that can but kill the body, and hath power to do no more, but fear and reverence the living God of Heaven and Earth, and let him be your dread (and not man) and commit your ſelves, and all ye have, and the Cauſe ye are engaged in, freely unto the Lord, who takes care for his Children, that not one hair of their head ſhall periſh beyond his permiſſion; And keep your meetings diligently, and let in no Reaſoner or Conſulter with fleſh and blood, to hinder you therefrom; And meet together as exactly as ye can poſſible, at the time appointed, for your faithfull teſtimony herein is honourable in the ſight of the Lord, and of his children, who ſuffer bonds, or may ſuffer exilement, or baniſhment, for the ſame Teſtimony: And in ſo doing, ye will be a ſtrength & encouragement one to another, and a good ſavour in the hearts of many (that are even ready to joyn with you in the light of the Lord) and a dread to your enemies, for by a fooliſh Nation will he anger the mighty and wiſe men of the Earth, and provoke many people to jealouſie; and the Time is come that whoſoever ſhall call upon the Name of the Lord (in truth) ſhall be ſaved.

Therefore reſiſt every appearance or thought to the contrary (in the light and ſtrength of God) as a Temptation of the enemy: And remember the Serpent Tempted in *Paradiſe*, to break the Command of the Lord, and is yet neer to betray the Innocent into the ſinners hands, whoſe mercy will be found cruelty; for he is not wanting at this day, to ſtrive every way to make you fall from your ſtedfaſtneſs, neither is his ſubtilty abated, to beguile the ſimple, to draw them into his own ſtate of Condemnation, of which all have been, are, and ever will be partakers, who hearken to his voyce, and obey his Temptations: And this lyes on me to warn you of; For if he get you to bow a little, he will get more ſtrength againſt you, and more hold and ground in you, by his fair flouriſhed baits and cunning crafty allurements, whereby your faith would be weakned, and even faile, till he cauſe you to make ſhipwrack thereof, and of a good Conſcience, through the toſſing your minds to and fro in the Sea of Temptations; and this would be an horrible day of Tempeſts unto you. The Lord my God by his eternal power keep open your underſtandings, that ye may perfectly ſee & diſcern him

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in all his wiles and cunning craftineſs, by which he lies in wait to deceive, both within and from without; that ſo ye may be able to reſiſt him in every appearance, and quench all his fiery darts in the living faith, that not a place be given to him, for if ye give him place, he will get more room and matter to work on, till he becomes a ſtrong man armed, to keep the houſe againſt every motion and appearance of God in you, thereby endeavouring to dwell at peace; but all his ſtrong holds muſt be ſtormed, and his peace overturned, and the league and covenant with death and hell ſhall be broken, by the pure Life and Seed of God (his head bruiſer) let him do what he can, and then ye will perceive he was a falſe Propher, and hath deceived you.

Therefore my dear Friends, watch and pray continually, that ye enter not into temptation, but that ye may ſee every appearance of evil, and abſtain from it; ſo ſhall the God of Truth and Peace ſanctifie you wholly, in Body, Soul and Spirit, whereby ye ſhall become fit habitations for the Lord to dwell and walk in, and have his Teſtimony in your ſelves, that you are his Children, being taught of him, and preſerved by him to his praiſe, and your everlaſting comfort and peace. So keep your eye open to the Eternal Light, in which ye will ſee over time, and all things comprehended in it, and through the end of all temptations, and over all the ſtormes and tempeſts of the wicked, who at this day are like the troubled Sea, and cannot reſt, for there is no peace to the wicked, ſaith my God: But he is your peace and reſting place, who rebukes the Winds, and walkes upon the Sea, and calmes the Stormes at his pleaſure; though in the World ye have Tribulation and Perſecution for his Name ſake, it's but for a moment in reſpect of the Eternal Life, if it ſhould be ſo all the days of your Pilgrimage on Earth, and but Light Affliction, in compariſon of the exceeding Weight of the Glory ye ſhall be partakers of, as ye abide faithful to the End.

So the Eternal God of Life and Peace be with you, and preſerve you by his Power, and keep you all valiant for his living Truth, in the pure ſenſe and enjoyment thereof in all your hearts, to the End.

And my dear Friends, who are in Bonds, Priſons and Holes, for the ſame Teſtimony of Jeſus Chriſt, where ye are oppreſſed and thronged, as ſheep appointed for the ſlaughter, without Mercy from your Adverſaries; be ye not diſcouraged, but lift up your

Heads in the pure Life of your Teſtimony; for this is a day in which the Lord will glorifie himſelf in the eyes of all Nations, and get himſelf a Name above every name, that every knee may bow to him, and that all fleſh may dread and tremble before him, and become as the graſs, and as the flower that fadeth away, at the majeſty and glory of his preſence, who hath touched the Mountains and they ſmoak, and the ſmoak of their torment aſcends night and day, becauſe of the everlaſting burnings, with which he is melting the Hills like wax, and conſuming the ungodly like the fat of Lambs, and ſolding them up as thornes and ſtubble for the fire. Great is the work which the Lord is doing, and cutting ſhort in righteouſneſs, yea, *ſuch a day* is *approaching* as many will not *believe*, though it be, and hath been declared unto them, in which the Lord will *plead* with all fleſh, by *fire* and *ſword*, and with *plague* and *peſtilence*, *famine* and *earthquakes*, in *divers* places, and *dreadful ſtormes*, and *fearful ſights* within and without, ſo that all fleſh ſhall be pained, and wax feeble before him; for the terrors of God (within and without) ſhall ſet themſelves in array againſt the ungodly, and compaſs the wicked as with ſnares of fire, till they are conſumed; and the very ſtars in their courſes ſhall fight againſt them, yea, he will make his wonders known upon them, as in the dayes of *Egypt*. And this I am bold to proclaim, in the Name and Authority of the Everlaſting God, for I have ſeen the conſumption determined, and how it will come to paſs, which is coming upon them as ſwift as an Eagles wings, and it ſhall not tarry nor be prolonged, and he that will come (to reward every man according as his work ſhal be) will come quickly: Bleſſed are they that wait for him.

Therefore my dear Friends, ſeeing our God is no reſpecter of perſons, but is riſen as a Giant to the Battel, to plead the cauſe of his elect Seed, and to exalt his Name over all the Earth; and ſeeing we look for ſuch things, which will certainly come to paſs, and be fulfilled in their ſeaſon (which haſtens) *What manner of perſons ought we to be, in all holy converſation and godlineſs?* and what need have we of diligence, watchfulneſs and readineſs, that we may be found of him in peace, *without ſpot, and blameleſs?* The God of all mercies (whoſe long-ſuffering and kindneſs hath been exceedingly manifeſted to us-ward) keep you exceeding ſtill, quiet, and low in your minds and ſpirits, fearing to offend him in thought, word and deed, at all times and ſeaſons. And take heed of Diſcourſes among your ſelves which are unneceſſary, for the enemy hath a ſe-

a ſecret end to effect among ſuch things, to draw out your minds from the living ſenſe of the precious tender Seed of God in you, which preſerves the mind joyned to it, in the humbleneſs and watchfulneſs againſt every appearance of evil; for he will not let ſlip any opportunity which tends to his advantage, that he may thereby preſerve, continue and uphold, his own Kingdom and Intereſt. Now he perceives his ruine approaching, and his perpetual downfal at hand, who will dwell as long as he can in the two men (once) poſſeſſed, but being wholly caſt out from thence, his laſt habitation is the herd of Swine, whom he hath cauſed, and will cauſe, to run down with violence and periſh.

So my dear Friends, be very careful, and let your words be few, and your moderation known unto all men, and in all things, for the Lord is at hand, who weigheth the thoughts, words, and actions, intents and purpoſes of all people, with a juſt Ballance, who will not acquit the guilty, without puniſhment, whereſoever it is found. And keep within the bounds of the feeling of the Seed of God, in all your wayes, for that is the ancient Land-mark, which he that goes beyond tranſgreſſeth; and take heed of loudneſs, forwardneſs, or haſtineſs of ſpeech, in all your diſcourſes about the things of this world (and this I lay upon you from the Lord, to whom you muſt give an account) but be dead & ſlow to ſuch things, and be lively in Chriſt Jeſus the Truth, and yet moderate, patient and cool, for God requireth ſtilneſs, yea, great ſtilneſs, and watchfulneſs amongſt you at this day, that you may hear his Voice, and do his Will, and ſtand in his pure Counſel, which the many words without knowledge and meekneſs of wiſdom darkeneth, for which the reproofs muſt come. So the Lord guide you in his fear, and gentle peaceable wiſdom, that no folly, ſuperfluity or unſoundneſs, may be found among you, but that ye may all learn of him daily, who is meek and lowly, and be kept in his weighty and ſavoury Life, to the honour of his Name, and the comfort and edification of one another. And mark them that are unruly & walk diſorderly among you, and cauſe diviſions, through their unſubjected wills, and exalted ſpirits, above the Seed of God, which is but one in you all, and have no fellowſhip with them, that they may ſee their ſhame; and yet have no prejudice or enmity riſe in your hearts againſt any, but let your upright Life and Converſation daily judge and condemn them, that if poſſible they may be awakened, and be ſenſible of their ſtate, and repent and be ſaved. So let there be no ſtrife or con-

contentions amongst you, no needless disputations, whereby the weak may stumble, no foolish jesting, no vain jangling, but quietness and sobarness, with gravity and godliness, in all reverence and godly fear, for our God is a consuming fire; and if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and transgressor appear?

So dear Friends, study to be quiet, and eat your own bread, and wait for it daily, and be content therewith, and let all your striving be to stand still, for herein is your strength encreased; and be good examples one unto another, and to all people that may come among you to visit you, or to behold your order, for the holy Name of our God is greatly concerned in this matter, and we are now the very people by whom he will be honoured and greatly exalted, or else reproached and dishonoured, in this our day and generation. So grieve not the Spirit of God in your selves, or others, neither provoke him to jealousie against you, but dwell retired and watchful against every motion that would exalt it self above the pretious tender Seed, to hurt it; so shall ye have peace (as ye dwell in the holy Mountain) and be justified in the sight of the Lord, and be a good savour in the hearts of all sober people, whose eyes are towards you for good. So mind the honour of God, and bear in remembrance the end for which he hath called you out of the world at this day, to bear your testimony in sufferings for his Name sake; and be circumspect, humble, and wise in all your wayes, that the Lord may be honoured by you, and his Witness answered in all People; so shall his Seed be raised, and the weak be strengthened, and your own souls comforted in him that guides his Children (that learn of him) in the way of Peace. And for this is the daily travel of my soul, who am one in sufferings with you for the same pure testimony, which shall stand forever.

And all Friends every where, who have, or may have any occasion or business to any in Authority in the Nations, or who having done any thing in obedience to the Lord (as your faithful Testimony to his Name) for which ye are, or may be, brought before any of them; or, have any motion lye upon you, to go and warn them, or, any particular of them, concerning the work they are about, or of the day of the Lord, that is coming as a Theife upon them; or as concerning them that *suffer bonds*, or the *spoiling* of their *goods*, or *sentence* of *Banishment* for the *Truth-sake*, or the like; this I lay upon you, from the Lord (which hath often rise in my heart) *go not in your own will, nor time*, but wait upon him in stillness,

and

and eye his pure presence and power to go with you, before you, to lead and carry you on in obedience to his own pure motion, in which ye will feel strength sufficient, and receive the pure wisdom from above (as in his Light, Dread and Counsel ye abide) so to speak, that Gods Witness in all may be answered, & here ye will be a good savour to him, whether they hear or forbear. So premeditate not afore hand, what to speak, or answer, but singly give up, and dwell low, and subject to the Lord, and keep within the feeling of his eternal Power, and sink into it, and then ye will be preserved innocent, and cool, and patient, and bold, in dominion over all fear and weakness, which would be ready to enter; and so the Truth being kept clear in you, and by you, in all things, the Lord will be honoured, and his Name exalted over all the contrary, to whom all honour and fear belongs. And let none sute or frame themselves to please men, but all seek to please the Lord, and seek his face, and his glory; and let his Truth be very dear and pretious to you and amongst you all, yea, more than your own lives, and then by it ye will be preserved to his praise, and your own eternal comfort and peace; for great hath been the sufferings for its sake, and many hath sealed their testimony of it with their blood, who have not loved their lives unto death, for the joy that was set before them, whose faithfulness lives in an everlasting record, and can never be blotted out of the hearts of the righteous, but is had in eternal remembrance: the consideration whereof, shall break the hearts of Children that are yet unborn, and the life thereof shall raise up thousands from the dead, who shall give glory to God in their behalf. So in his Truth, the Lord God of all mercies and everlasting blessings keep you all. *Amen.*

In whose blessed Will, I lye down, with all the faithful and upright in heart, dayly waiting in his pure Light (which makes all things manifest) to know more of his counsel, and to be obedient thereunto, in whatsoever he requireth of me; in which I exhort some, that they suffer not a motion of that spirit of *Core* or *Elias* to rise in their hearts, lest thereby they endanger themselves; for what was *Moses*? and what was *Aaron*? and what are all that bare a pure Testimony this day, for the Name of the Most Holy dreadful God, but such as hazard their Lives, and are your servants for Christs sake? therefore let such be very careful, and tender in this matter; for cannot we say to them (as little to *David* his brethren) *Is there not a cause*? Do not the care and zeal for the honour

hour of the great and holy Name of our God dayly increase in me? I can truly say, *The zeal of thine house hath even eaten me up.* That his living Truth and People may be kept blameless, and spotless, in this great and notable day of Tryal, is the travel of my breathing soul, day and night; and I seek not mine own honour, but the honour of him that hath had mercy upon me, who hath opened mine eyes, and given me of his free Spirit, & eternal Power, and all I have, I have received from him, and I have nothing to boast of, but in the Lord, and his Mercies, which endureth for ever; in whose Salvation I rejoyce, and in his fear I delight: and Lord let me never forget thy *Name*, nor the multitude of thy Mercyes toward me, and toward all thy People, but let me ever give thanks to thee in the lively remembrance of them, who is setting a Remnant as watchmen upon the walls of *Jerusalem*, who cannot hold their peace, for her sake, day nor night, till she is made the Praise of the whole Earth; and so much the more as they see the day approaching, though their life is in great stillness; and I could be content to be silent, but I must obey his requirings, or I cannot be clear in his sight; And I know to this end hath he preserved me to this day and hour, in the secret of his Pavilion; blessed be his Name for ever.

Into whose hand I freely commit my soul, and body, and all that he hath given me, and all his dear people every where, to be disposed at his good will and pleasure, in which I feele my reward with me, and my witness is in heaven, and the true joy of the Lord is in my heart as an open fountain, which none knows but the redeemed from the earth; and yet I am dayly a man of sorrowes, and well acquainted with griefs, for the redemption of his seed in Captivity, and for the whole Creation, that groaneth under the bondage of corruption; but in all estates I have learned to be content, knowing the Lord is with me, and hears, and in due time will answer the breathings of his own, to whom be the glory, dominion and praises, now and for evermore. Amen.

I am your dear Brother and Companion, who suffer with patience for the everlasting Truth of God (which must spread over all the Earth, and be established on the top of all Mountains) in which I bid you farewel. W. P.

From *Hertford*, where I remain a Prisoner for the Testimony of Jesus Christ, the 26 of the 4th Month. 1668.